Code of Official Conduct

Rule XLIII of
The Rules of the House of Representatives

101st Congress

Committee on Standards
of Official Conduct

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC

H742-5

HOUSE RULE XLIII—Code of Official Conduct

There is hereby established by and for the House of Representatives the following code of conduct, to be known as the "Code of Official Conduct":

1. A Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall conduct himself at all times in a manner which shall reflect creditably on the House of Representatives.

2. A Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House of Representatives and to the rules of duly constituted committees thereof.

3. A Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall receive no compensation nor shall he permit any compensation to accrue to his beneficial interest from any source, the receipt of which would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from his position in the Congress.

4. A Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall not accept gifts (other than personal hospitality of an individual or with a fair market value of $50 or less) in any calendar year aggregating $100 or more in value, directly or indirectly, from any person (other than from a relative of his) having a direct interest in legislation before the Congress or who is a foreign national (or agent of a foreign national). Any person registered under the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of

1946 (or any successor statute), any officer or director of such registered person, and any person retained by such registered person for the purpose of influencing legislation before the Congress shall be deemed to have a direct interest in legislation before the Congress.

5. A Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall accept no honorarium for a speech, writing for publication, or other similar activity, from any person, organization, or corporation in excess of the usual and customary value for such services.

6. A Member of the House of Representatives shall keep his campaign funds separate from his personal funds. He shall convert no campaign funds to personal use in excess of reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable prior campaign expenditures and he shall expend no funds from his campaign account not attributable to bona fide campaign purposes.

7. A Member of the House of Representatives shall treat as campaign contributions all proceeds from testimonial dinners or other fund raising events.

8. A Member of the House of Representatives shall retain no one from his clerk hire allowance who does not perform duties commensurate with the compensation he receives.

9. A Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall not discharge or refuse to hire any individual, or otherwise

discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

10. A Member of the House of Representatives who has been convicted by a court of record for the commission of a crime for which a sentence of two or more years' imprisonment may be imposed should refrain from participation in the business of each committee of which he is a member and should refrain from voting on any question at a meeting of the House, or of the Committee of the Whole House, unless or until judicial or executive proceedings result in reinstatement of the presumption of his innocence or until he is reelected to the House after the date of such conviction.

11. A Member of the House of Representatives shall not authorize or otherwise allow a non-House individual, group, or organization to use the words "Congress of the United States", "House of Representatives", or "Official Business", or any combination of words thereof, on any letterhead or envelope.

As used in this Code of Official Conduct of the House of Representatives—(a) the terms "Member" and "Member of the House of Representatives" include the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico and each Delegate to the House and (b) the term "officer or employee

of the House of Representatives" means any individual whose compensation is disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

For the purposes of clause 4 of this Code of Official Conduct—

(1) The term "relative" means, with respect to any Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives, an individual who is related as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, or who is the grandfather or grandmother of the spouse of the person reporting.

(2) The term "foreign national" means an individual who is not a citizen of the United States and who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(*Note:* Title 2 of the United States Code, Section 441i, and House Rule XLVII contain limitations on honoraria.)

HISTORY

This rule was adopted on April 3, 1968—H. Res. 1099, 90th Congress. Clause 6 was amended and clause 9 was added on January 14, 1975—H. Res. 5, 94th Congress. Clause 10 was added on April 16, 1975—H. Res. 46, 94th Congress. Clauses 4, 6 and 7 were amended on March 2, 1977—H. Res. 287, 95th Congress. Clause 11 was added on January 15, 1979—H. Res. 5, 96th Congress. Clauses 4 and 9 were amended on January 6, 1987—H. Res. 5, 100th Congress.

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